financial assistance to the States/UT Governments for deployment of Tourist Police Force.

Bilateral agreements with tourism generating countries

1287. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to sign bilateral agreements with some tourism generating countries.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the countries identified for the purpose;

(c) the important features of the proposed agreements; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to boost the tourism industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Government of India signs bilateral agreements with tourism generating countries from time to time on mutually agreed terms. Thirty eight such bilateral agreements/MoUs have already been signed by Government of India and proposals from Philippines, Malaysia and Oman for signing agreements for cooperation in the field of tourism have been received.

(c) and (d) Bilateral tourism cooperation agreements serves as an instrument for marketing and promoting tourism from a particular market. These agreements facilitate launching of marketing activities, exchange of travel trade delegations, export-import of publicity/promotional material, advertising, exchange of know-how, facilitating investors, human resource development and organising specal promotional events for mutual benefits in the field of tourism.

Financial assistance to yoga kendras

†1288. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the names of the States in the country where Yoga Kendras are attracting foreign tourists;

(b) whether the Central Government have provided financial assistance to these States to strengthen the infrastructure of Yoga Kendras in order to encourage Yoga-based tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the steps being taken to propogate India in the world as Yoga Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Yoga has become very popular in foreign countries. It is attracting foreign tourists to the entire country.

Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for the development and promotion of tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds, and *inter-se* priorities. The funds released to the State Governments/ Union Territories during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan are enclosed as Statement. *(See* below)

Yoga is also promoted in foreign countries through India tourism offices abroad.

Statement

State-wise tourism projects sanctioned during the first two years of tenth five year Plan 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	1454.00	1091.44
2.	Assam	12	1081.50	931.91
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	1085.90	732.50
4.	Bihar	14	1524.42	1418.89
5.	Chattisgarh	15	1313.00	462.50
6.	Goa	3	37.28	35.26

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	10	1117.63	874.95
8.	Haryana	24	1547.63	1190.23
9.	Himachal Pradesh	34	961.64	845.38
10.	J&K	8	989.38	984.47
11.	Jharkhand	2	1109.00	774.60
12.	Karnataka	20	1835.15	1418.00
13.	Kerala	17	1469.86	1394.01
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28	1333.08	969.30
15.	Maharashtra	18	1555.29	1460.83
16.	Manipur	3	87.68	27.35
17.	Meghalaya	5	110.57	46.12
18.	Mizoram	11	708.86	235.21
19.	Nagaland	9	1071.50	544.23
20.	Orissa	7	467.05	154.25
21.	Punjab	5	119.00	26.00
22.	Rajasthan	27	2743.51	2510.45
23.	Sikkim	21	1497.33	951.25
24.	Tamil Nadu	19	1898.82	1166.63
25.	Tripura	11	666.30	202.94
26.	Uttaranchal	7	778.44	621.94
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10	1410.80	1211.26
28.	West Bengal	15	918.54	44434
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	5	17.75	14.63
31.	Dadarand Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46
32.	Delhi	31	3820.28	3671.15
33.	Daman and Diu	4	314.57	255.46
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	3	253.04	79.85
	TOTAL	419	35306.94	26754.69

Promotion of tourism in M.P.

†1289. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 231 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th July, 2002 regarding promotion of tourism in Gwalior-Shivpuri area and state the progress made so far to develop tourist spots in Gwalior-Shivpuri area in Madhya Pradesh?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.